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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, after discussions with the parties, has brought about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

Improvements to roads in Palghat Municipality

* 2626 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received in August 1954 a resolution, dated 2nd January 1954, from the Palghat Municipality applying for a loan of rupees five lakhs for carrying out improvements to roads in the municipal area; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government considered the request and informed the council that its request could not be complied with.

Reduction of the price of yarn

* 2627 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the price of yarn supplied to handloom weavers; and

(b) whether the Central Government have been consulted in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (b) The Government have addressed the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to devise measures to bring down the prices of yarn consistent with the prices of cotton.

A co-operative spinning mill is also being set up in this State to supply yarn to handloom weavers in the co-operative fold at reasonable rates. On the recommendation of this Government, the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs to the mills.

Madras Technological Examination Board

* 2628 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the question of recognition by the Government of India of the Diplomas and Certificates issued by the Madras Technological Examination Board was referred to the Board of Assessment during February 1955?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Technological Diploma Examination Board, Madras, awards only Diplomas and does not issue any certificates. The question of recognition of the diplomas awarded by the Board has been referred to the Board of

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Assessment and is under consideration by a sub-committee appointed by it. In the meanwhile, the diplomas awarded by the Board have been provisionally recognised by the Government of India for purposes of recruitment to subordinate posts under them.

Sea erosion

* 2629 *Q*.—SRI P. JEEVANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the action taken by the Government on the representation made in the month of November 1954 by Sri P. Jeevanandam, M.L.A and the Murpokku Valaingar Sangam in regard to the damage caused by sea erosion to the huts in the fishermen's colonies in Tondiarpet and nearby areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government have sanctioned a scheme at a total cost of Rs. 4,14,500 made up of (i) Rs. 2,59,400 for acquisition of private sites and (ii) rupees 1,55,100 for provision of amenities thereon, for housing 282 families of fishermen who have been rendered homeless by sea erosion on North of Madras Harbour. The land acquisition proceedings are going on and it is hoped that the colony would be formed very soon.

* 2630 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have provided house-sites for the fishermen of Madras who have been affected by sea erosion; and

(*b*) if so, their number?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The fishermen who have been affected by sea erosion on the north of Madras Harbour have been accommodated in the Defence Department lands and other vacant Government lands temporarily. The Government have also since sanctioned a scheme for provision of permanent alternative house-sites to the fishermen and the private land required for the purpose is being acquired.

(*b*) 282 families will be benefited by the scheme.

Protected water-supply and drainage system

* 2631 *Q*.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Villupuram Municipal Council has presented a petition to the Government through Sri V. R. Nagarajan, M.L.A., for the provision of a protected water-supply and drainage system to the Villupuram Municipality; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?